

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's review and consideration of the foreign patent documents (AB-AJ) listed on the form PTO-1449 that was submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 9, 2006.

Regarding the aforementioned Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants note that although U.S. Patent No. 6,483,988 (document AA) was also listed on the form PTO-1449, the Examiner has not yet indicated that this document has been considered. Applicants believe that the Examiner inadvertently overlooked document AA, and respectfully request that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the form PTO-1449 indicating that this U.S. patent document has been considered.

By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the essential features of claim 3, which has been canceled along with claim 2. New claim 5 has been added. Support for new claim 5 can be found, *inter alia*, in claim 1 as originally presented, in the specification at page 9, lines 5-12, and from page 11, line 14 through page 19, line 16, and in Figures 5 and 6. Claims 1, 4 and 5 are presented for further examination.

The rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Nazaki, US 6,396,998 in view of Yoshinori, JP 08-287616, and further in view of Mayumi, JP 2001-126377 and Picolet, WO 97/14149 is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

The invention relates to an optical disc apparatus. As amended, claim 1 requires, in pertinent part, that (i) when stopping a preceding reproduction process, a memory stores audio identification information corresponding to the kind of audio having been reproduced in the preceding reproduction process, and (ii) when restarting the reproduction process, the demultiplexer is controlled by the main controller to extract, from the compressed audio data read out by the optical pickup, compressed audio data having the same audio identification information that the memory stores, and send the extracted compressed audio data to the audio decoder.

The Office Action asserts that the foregoing limitations, which were originally found in dependent claim 3, are disclosed in paragraphs [0004]-[0010] of Mayumi. Applicants respectfully disagree. Referring to paragraphs [0004]-[0010], and as noted on page 4 of the Office Action, Mayumi appears to teach an audio decoder that is absent of a DTS audio decoding function.

Mayumi does not teach or suggest, however, the claimed features of a memory that stores audio identification information corresponding to the kind of audio having been reproduced in a preceding reproduction process when stopping a preceding reproduction process, and a demultiplexer that is controlled by a main controller to extract compressed audio data having the same audio identification information that the memory stores from the compressed audio data read out by the optical pickup, and send the extracted compressed audio data to the audio decoder when restarting the reproduction process. Pointedly,

none of the cited references teach an optical disc apparatus having these features.

In addition, dependent claim 4 further requires that the optical disc apparatus includes audio identification information that comprises an entirety of a stream identifier and a part of a sub-stream identifier. While Yoshinori appears to disclose audio identification information that comprises a stream identifier, Applicants respectfully submit that Yoshinori does not teach or suggest audio identification information that comprises an entirety of a stream identifier and a part of a sub-stream identifier, as required by claim 4. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

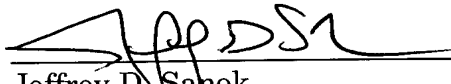
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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Reply to Office Action
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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #010482.53148US).

Respectfully submitted,

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Jeffrey D. Sanok
Registration No. 32,169

Michael W. Russell
Registration No. 61,362

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JDS:MWR:crr

4225049